



## NEWS FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### First 2013 Snow Survey Scheduled for January 2

**SACRAMENTO** -- The Department of Water Resources (DWR) will conduct this winter's first snow survey on January 2.

A traditional center of attention will be the manual survey scheduled for 11 a.m. off Highway 50 near Echo Summit. This and other manual and electronic readings up and down the state will determine the amount of water in the early winter snowpack.

Thanks to early season storms, electronic readings indicate that statewide, today's snowpack water content is 146 percent of normal for the date. The snowpack normally provides about a third of the water for California's households, farms and industries as it slowly melts into streams, reservoirs and aquifers in spring and early summer.

In addition to boosting snowpack readings to above normal, early storms have replenished the state's reservoirs. Lake Oroville in Butte County, the State Water Project's principal storage reservoir with a capacity of 3.5 million acre-feet, is at 70 percent of capacity, 111 percent of normal for the date. Shasta Lake north of Redding, the federal Central Valley Project's principal reservoir with a capacity of 4.5 million acre-feet, is at 71 percent of capacity, 113 percent of average for the

date.

DWR and cooperating agencies conduct manual snow surveys around the first of the month from January to May. The manual surveys supplement and check the accuracy of real-time electronic readings.

The news media is invited to accompany DWR snow surveyors near Echo Summit on January 2. The location is Phillips Station at Highway 50 and Sierra at Tahoe Road approximately 90 miles east of Sacramento. Measurements will begin at 11 a.m. Reporters and photographers should bring snowshoes or cross-country skis and park their vehicles along Highway 50. Results should be available by 1 p.m.

**Electronic snowpack readings are available on the Internet at:**

<http://cdec.water.ca.gov/cgi-progs/snow/DLYSWEQ>

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*The Department of Water Resources operates and maintains the State Water Project, provides dam safety and flood control and inspection services, assists local water districts in water management and water conservation planning, and plans for future statewide water needs.*